

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2639

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, NATO, DAINO

SUBJECT: EXERCISE BONDED ITEM: DANISH PARLIAMENTARIANS

REF: STATE 197134

SUMMARY: IN LIGHT OF DECISION BY GON OFFICIALS NOT TO INVITE DANISH PARLIAMENTARIANS TO OBSERVE EXERCISE TEAMWORK, EMBASSY COPENHAGEN SUPPORT DEPARTMENT SUGGESTION TO HAVE THEM OBSERVE EXERCISE BONDED ITEM. ALTHOUGH MORE LIMITED IN SCOPE THAN TEAMWORK, WE FEEL THAT OBSERVATION OF BONDED ITEM WILL STILL SERVE OUR PURPOSES IN DEMONSTRATING NEED FOR DANES TO MEET THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO NATO BY MAINTAINING ADEQUATE DEFENSE SPENDING LEVELS.
END SUMMARY.

1. EXERCISE BONDED ITEM WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE WESTERN PART OF DENMARK IN MID-OCTOBER, ALTHOUGH SMALLER IN SCALE THAN EXERCISE TEAMWORK, IT WILL AFFORD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPOSE KEY DANISH PARLIAMENTARIANS TO THE VALUE OF A COMMON DEFENSE, UNDERLINE DANISH RESPONSIBILITIES TO FULFILL ITS NATO COMMITMENTS, AND HOPEFULLY INFLUENCE THEIR DELIBERATIONS OF THE NEW DANISH DEFENSE
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AGREEMTN. IT MAY TURN OUT THAT THE PARLIAMENTARIANS WILL BE MORE IMPRESSED AND INFLUENCED BY FIRST HAND OBSERVATION OF AN EXERCISE ON DANISH SOIL INVOLVING DANISH MILITARY THAN A SIMILAR EXERCISE ELSEWHERE. ADDITIONALLY, OBSERATIONS OF BONDED ITEM, PRIMARILY AN AMPHIBIOUS EXERCISE, WILL STRIKE CLOSER TO HOME SINCE A FUNDAMENTAL PREMISE TO DENMARK'S SURVIVAL IN THE EVENT OF WAR IS TIMELY EXTERNAL REINFORCEMENT.

2. WHILE THEORETICALLY INVITATION TO OBSERVE THE EXERCISE COULD COME FROM THREE SOURCES - U.S., NATO OR DANES THEMSELVES - WE BELIEVE THAT FOR MANY REASONS FIRST TWO ALTERNATIVES ARE LESS DESIRABLE THAN IF INVITATIONS WERE EXTENDED BY DANISH DEFENSE COMMAND OR MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. SINCE DANES INTEND TO INVITE A NUMBER OF HIGH LEVEL MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT CIVILIAN OFFICIALS TO OBSERVE PROTIONS OF THE EXERCISE, HOPEFULLY THEY CAN BE PERSUADED TO INCLUDE SOME OF THEIR OWN PARLIAMENTARIANS AMONG THE SPECTATORS. WE PLAN TO EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY WITH THE DANISH MILITARY NEXT WEEK TO OBTAIN THEIR REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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